and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, no unregistered practitioner can practice medicine. Any person who acts in contravention of the provision can be punished with imprisonment and fine under the respective Acts.

Epidemics in Kerala

790. SHRI N.K. PREMA CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that epidemics such as dengue fever, weil's disease and viral fever claimed about 120 lives in Kerala within one month;

(b) whether the State Government has requested for central assistance to check unprcedented spread of such diseases; and

(c) whether Government are considering any central assistance to the State for intensifying the epidemic control programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) 47 deaths due to Dengue Fever and 43 deaths due to Weil's disease have been reported by State Health authorities upto 17.7.2003.

(b) and (c) Government of Kerala has requested Central Assistance for insecticides, Diagnostic Kits, ELISA Reader, minor civil works, training, IEC activities, mobility support, contingency and procurement of fogging machines.

Requisite quantities of insecticides and larvicides have been provided to the State. Rs. 20 lakhs for IEC activities have been released to the State through the Regional Director. Two Expert Teams from Directorate of National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) and National Institute of Communicable Disease (NICD) have provided technical support to the State of Kerala in handling the outbreak. The State has also been advised to intensify focused IEC, community participation and inter-sectoral collaboration for source reduction and control besides proper case management.